

Dr Ian Shanahan
57 Yates Avenue
Dundas Valley NSW 2117

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TO THE AFTRS SELECTION PANEL

As a former lecturer in performance and composition in the Music Department of the School of Contemporary Arts at the University of Western Sydney, it has been my pleasure to get to know Barry Hales personally and professionally since February 2002. My first encounter with Barry's music was with his pop song **Moments of Madness**, which Barry himself performed expertly during an examination: I recall being deeply impressed by both the professionalism of his composition and by the freshness of his creative voice in a genre bedevilled by clichés.

Since that initial occasion, in the context of Barry's university studies (in which he had made excellent progress), I have become increasingly excited by Barry's creativity, self-motivation, professional attitude and behaviour (both individually, and as part of a team), and also by his enthusiasm to ever broaden his (musical) knowledge; this would suggest that Barry is thoroughly equipped to contend positively with the rigours of the Graduate Diploma in Screen Composition at AFTRS.

Indeed, having seen and heard Barry's work as a film composer, I believe that he is already making – and will doubtless continue to make – a significant artistic contribution to the film industry and thus to Australian culture at large. Barry's film music is both imaginative yet appropriate, in that it supports the accompanying images and directorial vision. He is also obviously adept at working in a wide range of styles and genres. Should Barry be selected for the Graduate Diploma in Screen Composition – and I do believe that he ought to be – Barry's considerable skills will undoubtedly be enhanced and expanded, and he will make invaluable connections with other up-and-coming professionals in the Australian film industry.

I unreservedly support Barry Hales's application to study at AFTRS, and would be most happy to augment this reference through a phone call (to my home: 9871-4282) at any time.

Dr Ian Shanahan

Casual Lecturer in Composition & Contemporary Music,
Music Department,
University of Sydney.